

## Victim Notification Program

In FY 1996/97, the Legislature established the Victim Notification Program (VNP), a pilot program designed to implement and test procedures for notifying victims of crime (if requested) of the release of perpetrators or defendants from a local detention facility. The 1996/97 State budget appropriated \$100,000 to the BOC to administer the program and distribute grants to counties on a competitive basis for the development and implementation of VNPs.

The BOC requested proposals from counties and cities and formed a task force to evaluate each proposal. Six jurisdictions submitted proposals. In FY 1996/97, the BOC awarded grants to Kings, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties for projects during the grant period of July 1, 1997 through February 28, 1998.

Figure 11 lists grant awards, along with the number of victims notified of defendants released during the grant period. Reported reasons for victims not being notified were that they changed their address or telephone number without notifying the VNP, or that they did not confirm telephone contact with the correct personal identification number.

**Figure 11**

### VICTIM NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS

County	Grant	Total Victims Requesting Notification*	Total Victims Notified*	Percent Of Victims Notified*
<b>Kings</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>87 percent</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>33,333</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>72 percent</b>
<b>San Mateo</b>	<b>32,625</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>99 percent</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$98,958</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>96 percent</b>

\*Victim numbers related only to defendants that were released during the grant period.

BOC staff provided program oversight, monitoring and technical assistance, including developing and negotiating grant contracts, and verifying compliance with program and fiscal requirements. As required, the three grant counties evaluated program performance and submitted specified data to the BOC by April 15, 1998. All three programs were successfully implemented and completed. In May 1998, the BOC prepared a final program report at the request of Senator Ray Haynes, who authored the enabling legislation. A copy of the final program report containing detailed information on each of the programs is available on the BOC web site or upon request to the BOC.